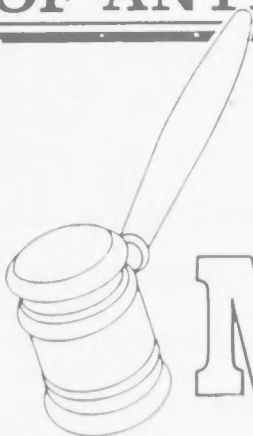




INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

President's



Newsletter

Number 74. April, 1997.

CALIFORNIA, WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

This Newsletter is going to the post office in mid-April, and while it ordinarily takes 12 to 15 days to reach everyone via our special bulk rate, it just may arrive at your mailbox a week or two before our convention gets underway (May 15, to be exact). Which means that if for any reason you've procrastinated but do want to be part of our gala, pick up the phone ASAP and call Joe Lenorovitz, our convention chairman, at 213/877-1963. If hotel rooms are still available (a strong possibility), you can bet Joe will pull strings and arrange for your last-minute registration. And from all we hear, our Los Angeles conclave promises to be another winning occasion, taking its cue from our most recent gatherings in New Orleans, Hershey, San Francisco, etc.

Highlights will include a visit to three prominent (and diverse) collections owned by long-time members, our Silent Auction where 350 to 500 scales will change hands, Show and Tell, Ask the Experts, and a festive Saturday night reception and banquet. If you're into scales (and we know you are), Los Angeles is the place to be on May 15 to 18. We're looking forward to a big turnout to enjoy our good times, and to your being a part of it.

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AND WHILE WE'RE TALKING CONVENTIONS...

your officers voted unanimously for Toronto as the site for our 1998 gathering, having received an enthusiastic show-of-hands endorsement from many members during a previous business meeting. The dates for 1998 are May 14 to 17, and we've already booked our stay at Toronto's Royal York Hotel, a premier setting in the city and one of the most famous hotels in the Western Hemisphere. We're well on our way to settling the issue of customs clearance so that it's quick and easy for all of us, and in the next few months we'll be sending you more news about our Society's first sojourn ever in Canada. For the moment, however, we can tell you that the Toronto co-chairmen are your president and Utz Schmidt, a Detroit member who can trace his convention chairman roots to ISASC's gathering in 1983 in Sindelfingen, Germany (West Germany at the time). Utz not only knows scales but also how to run our convention, and we're grateful for his taking on this important co-chairmanship. And, of course, he and spouse Shirley will be at our Los Angeles get-together, probably using every spare moment to jot down some bright ideas for Toronto.

OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS.

You may remember our telling you that ISASC's Executive Committee would be taking on a full agenda of business matters this past January 25-26 in Los Angeles. Well, their day-and-a-half meeting has come and gone, and much was accomplished. The committee, to whom we owe our deep thanks, comprised Jan Macho, Ruth Willard, Joe Lenorovitz, and yours truly, and their labors resulted in detailed minutes (shouldn't "minutes" actually be termed "hours"?). These minutes, double-spaced, run 10 pages in length, so rather than making a costly mailing to the entire membership, we're happy to send a copy to any member who makes the request, either by phone, letter, or fax to Bob Stein, 176 West Adams, #1706, Chicago, IL 60603 ♦ 312/263-7500 ♦ fax 312/263-7748. And just so you know what the minutes cover, here's the meeting agenda:

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- 1.) 1997 Convention
- 2.) 1998 Convention Site
- 3.) New EQM Index
- 4.) Officers and Directors Liability Insurance
- 5.) EQM Review Committee
- 6.) Upcoming Catalogs
- 7.) Endowment Program
- 8.) Year-End Financial Statement
- 9.) Benefactor Program
- 10.) 1997 Dues Increase
- 11/12.) New By-Laws/ISASC Infrastructure
- 13.) Operating Manual
- 14.) Pictorial Book On Scales
- 15.) Check-Writing Procedure
- 16.) Internet Advertising
- 17.) By-Laws
- 18.) President's Resignation

FROM THE TREASURER...

Each year, Jan Macho, our dedicated custodian of the exchequer, provides us with a financial statement for the previous year, and the statement for 1996 is herewith enclosed. Rather than presume to analyze Jan's figures, it seems better to reprint his comments verbatim, so here they are:

3/31/97

Hi, Bob:

As promised, here is the financial statement for ISASC covering the year 1996. As you can see, it shows a loss of close to \$4,000. Obviously, as the Society gets into more activities such as board meetings in L.A., associate editors, additional vice presidents, etc., all of these functions create new expenses.

For that reason, raising our dues to \$65 should offset most of these additional new expenses. Still, while the Society has a cash buildup of roughly \$20,000, it is imperative that going forward we do not have many more years with severe losses or the cash reserve will disappear.

Best regards,

Jan

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No one can deny the logic of Jan's perceptions, and we best pay heed. However, several additional points concerning our finances deserve to be made, as follows:

- 1.) 1996 is the last year for the present financial statement in its somewhat abbreviated form. In 1997 and thereafter, a new, much more detailed format has been approved by ISASC's officers, which also is to be used for periodic expense reports. Further, the new format will break down the category of "Administrative Fees."
- 2.) Membership is at an all-time high, and notwithstanding the inevitable year-end fallout, our current count is 352 and always, always growing. If we hold to current levels, dues revenue for 1997 from 350 members @ \$65 each will come to \$22,750, or about \$6,000 more than 1996. (And just so everyone knows, the dues increase, authorized by our officers, was the first one in the last five years.)
- 3.) Under "Expenses," the printing cost for EQM in 1996 was \$8,206, whereas, based on our current per issue cost of \$1,260, this expense for 1997 should come to \$5,040, or a savings of almost \$3,200.

Taking together points 2 and 3, the net increase in income could approximate \$9,200, an amount that clearly would more than offset our 1996 loss of \$4,000. All in all, our fiscal position seems solid, and 1997 could readily increase our net worth.

MORE ABOUT MONEY.

It's become our practice in recent past years to petition our members to contribute--on a voluntary basis--to our Benefactor Program. The funds we raise help us maintain our high operating standards, and this year's response again was quite generous, with 89 members bringing us within a hare's whisker of our 1997 goal of \$10,000. The enclosed list acknowledges those who saw fit to contribute this year and to whom we extend our deepest thanks.

AN INVITATION TO MIDDLESEX.

But don't get the wrong idea. We mean Middlesex, England, where ISASC/Europe will be holding its autumn meeting next October 12. Invariably, these one-day events start early, end late, and offer scale collectors an eventful time in between. This even includes a bourse and/or auction at which you just might acquire a scale (or two or three) for your collection. If you'd like to know more, write John Corfield, Woodfield, Longhills Road, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6DS, England.

HERE'S YOUR 1997 SOURCE BOOK.

Which is another term for this year's membership directory. It's an invaluable reference aid and an easy way to keep in touch with old friends and make new ones. All you need do is remove last year's directory from its vinyl binder and replace it with this year's. Nothing could be simpler and more worthwhile.

NOW. THE WEB WAY TO COLLECTING.

We've just heard from member Ray Ontko, whose company has created a Web site dedicated to benefiting collecting communities. Ray tells us that the Internet helps collectors from all over the world find and share information relevant to their collecting interests. Collectors can locate and purchase rare antiques, participate in antique discussion groups, chat on-line with other collectors, subscribe to antique magazines, and find out about shows, auctions, or any events in the area by using the Internet.

Ray's company released Websters' Antique Shop (W.A.S.) in January, '97. The Web site contains information about clubs, shops, malls, and collectors. Those interested in displaying information may add a listing or get a Web page -- an almost endless page that contains information about your interests and items you're looking to buy or sell. Listings are free while Web pages are \$15 per month with the first month free.

W.A.S. is one of many collectible and antique sites that are benefiting collectors. These Web sites offer a wide variety of services that include on-line "booths," "electronic" store sites, auctions, book-stores, and more. They can be located on the Web at:

W.A.S.	http://www.was.com
Collector On-Line	http://www.collectoronline.com
Collector's Supermall	http://www.csmonline.com
The Internet Antiqe Shop	http://www.tias.com

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER.

Eric and Judy Soslau, editors of ISASC's Bibliography of Weighing Instruments, would like to remind one and all that the publication of the Bibliography was a milestone but hardly the be-all, end-all. Supplements will be printed periodically, so if you are aware of a new book, journal or catalog devoted entirely or substantially to scales, please send its particulars to the Soslaus. A form is included with this mailing for you to use to insure the information is complete; feel free to make as many copies as you need.

MISCELLANY.

** Arline and Bill Jacobson write to tell us of the "wonderful days" spent with some of ISASC's English members this past fall. Their visit included stop-overs for lunch and scale-viewing at Diana Crawforth's abode; a full day with Bob Holdaway, including a tour of his collection; a pub lunch with John Corfield and wife Doris, followed by a visit to the Corfield home, after which they returned to the Holdaway home for a buffet dinner prepared by son Richard and an evening of conversation (undoubtedly talking about you know what). And as if that wasn't enough friends-across-the-sea hosting, Bob even arranged for Euro-member John Cheeseman to repair a scale the Jacobsons had purchased during their travels. As Arline and Bill put it, it was a "most enjoyable visit to Great Britain."

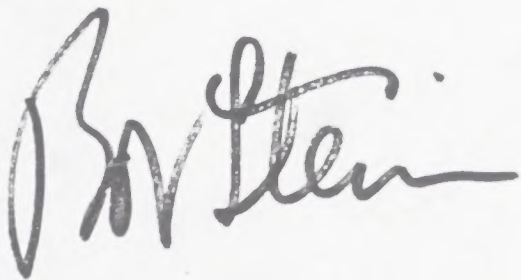
** An update from member George Mallis tells us that the bi-lingual edition (French and English) of A. Dieudonne's noted work, Poids Monetaires, is now finished and about to be published. Prepared by George and co-authors Ralph and Gloria Lipfert, this expanded book (spiral-bound) will include all of the original work plus several new color pages of coin weights from the Mallis collection. The edition will be a limited one, with 30 copies already reserved for the Euro-Chapter. Members of our chapter who wish to order a copy should send a card or letter to George Mallis (new address in 1997 directory). The cost will be about \$35 in the U.S./Canada, plus postage, but do not include payment. George will notify you in due course of the exact amount to remit.

** In our last Newsletter, we reported that member Jack Bender's scale collection would be on display from January to July of this year at the Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences. Well, it's happening just that way, and on February 7th a feature article about the exhibit, complete with photos, appeared on the cover page of the Friday section of the Staten Island Advance. It's reprinted on the back side of this page, and aside from your finding it entertaining reading, it will give you an idea (again) of just how newsworthy our hobby is.

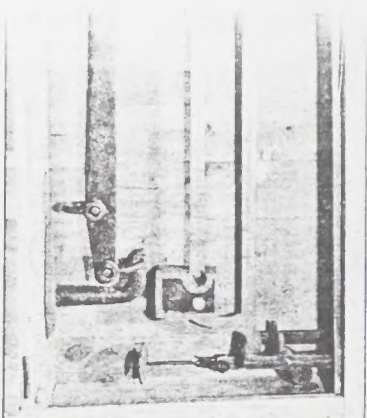
AND SO...

it's time to put pen and paper aside and turn to other ISASC matters. I do hope that Margie and I will see you in Los Angeles at convention time. Until then, all the best.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Stein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

(over)



Weighty matters

The newest exhibit at the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences is "History in the Balance: Weighing Devices from the Collection of Dr. Jack Bender."

BY SHAWN MOYNIHAN
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Weighty

FROM PAGE E 1

are invited to step on four different digital scales to discover their weight on the moon, Jupiter, the Sun and Venus.

Next to these is an Eggomatic, a large device that separates a dozen eggs at a time according to weight. This large instrument is not to be confused with a vintage "Jiffy Way" tin scale used for the same purpose, which is on display as well. Only one egg at a time can be weighed using the latter.

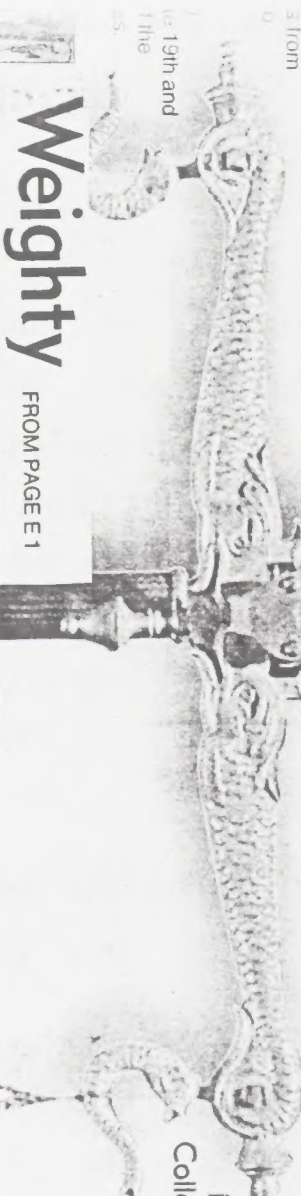
Not surprisingly, since many of the items are from the collection of Dr. Bender (who is a dentist), an antique bottle of Merkel's tooth powder sits in one section next to an 1860s family scale, the type once used for measuring foods in the home.

The exhibit is also not without

its interactive displays. At one station visitors can weigh clear plastic orbs filled with feathers, kernels of corn, and lollipops to see how much of each is needed to weigh exactly one pound on an accompanying scale. Youngsters are encouraged to weigh different objects at a separate station, using digital scales.

"History In the Balance: Weighing Devices From the Collection of Dr. Jack Bender" can be seen Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors and students.

The Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences is located at 75 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George, and can be reached at 727-1135.



The Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences is out to prove with its newest exhibition that everything really does balance out in the end.

"History in the Balance: Weighing Devices from the Collection of Dr. Jack Bender," on view through July 6 in the St. George museum's Gallery B on the second floor, celebrates more than a century of scales, weights and balances by providing an overview of implements suitable for weighing everything from precious stones to railroad cars.

Included are more than 30 scales from the Bender collection, as well as 16 scales from the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture. Beam balance scales with sliding weights are represented, along with spring and the newer digital scales, thrown in for good measure.

One of the first instruments in the exhibit is a late 19th-century bronze beam scale used for weighing gems. It is flanked by two types of smaller gemstone scales dating from the same time period.

Nearby is a Bullock scale, used to weigh mercantile wagons, livestock and even railroad cars during the late 1800s through the early 1920s. This scale was the forerunner of platform scales currently used for weighing tractor trailers.

At first glance, one might wonder why the Institute would mount an exhibit of vintage scales, since most of the museum's exhibitions appeal to a somewhat wider audience.

"It's not just a history of scales, it's a history of industrial design," Vince Sweeney, the exhibit's curator and the museum's curator of history, said of the exhibition. "All the pieces in here are considered rare."

Rare, and in some cases, quite different from what you'd expect. In one section, visitors

